



ELERS KOCH E. KOCH
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
NORTHERN REGION

PRESS SERVICE

INFORMATION CONCERNING THE NATIONAL FORESTS
AND WORK OF THE FOREST SERVICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

R-1, #920

FOREST SERVICE

VETERANS RETIRING

Missoula, Montana, October 2, 1943: Announcement is made by C. S. Webb, Acting Regional Forester, Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, that Elers Koch, Assistant Regional Forester in charge of Timber Management in Region One, and Forest Supervisor Walter J. Derrick of Missoula are retiring from active duty early in October.

Mr. Koch was first appointed field assistant in the State of Montana July 1, 1903, and assigned the duties of making examination of proposed forest reserves and boundaries. He later served as forest inspector in the State of Montana, and on January 1, 1907, was appointed forest supervisor of what was then the Lolo-Bitterroot and Missoula-Hell Gate Units. These units are now known as the Lolo and Bitterroot Forests.

Mr. Koch assisted in organizing the regional office which was established in Missoula in 1908, with Colonel W. B. Greeley as the first regional forester. He was supervisor of the Lolo Forest during the historical 1910 fires and is credited with originating and developing the Savenac Nursery.

In 1919 Mr. Koch was assigned in charge of regional fire control activities, and on October 1, 1920, was appointed assistant regional forester in charge of Timber Management over Region One. He has

Koch, Elers

continued in that position to the present time. Most of Mr. Koch's 40 years in the Forest Service have been devoted to work in Montana and Region One. Mr. Koch is of a Montana pioneer family, having been born and raised in the Gallatin Valley. He became interested in forestry at an early age and attended Montana State College at Bozeman, later attending Yale, where he received a degree in forestry.

Supervisor Derrick, who was born in Detroit, Michigan, came to Montana when a youth. He was appointed as assistant forest ranger on the Helena Forest in 1906, and served as assistant forest ranger and district forest ranger on the Helena and Deerlodge Forests. In 1916 he was appointed deputy supervisor of the Beartooth Forest, now a part of the Custer Forest, and served as a deputy there and on the Jefferson Forest until 1919 when he became supervisor of the Madison Forest. He later was transferred to the Custer Forest where he served until September 1942. During the past year Mr. Derrick has been stationed at Missoula where he has served as State Coordinator of the Forest Firefighting Service, which was organized as a country-wide volunteer fire protection agency during the war emergency. All of Mr. Derrick's 37 years with the Forest Service have been spent in Montana.

#

~~more text~~